

RHINO RESOURCE CENTER

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NEWSLETTER #19 MAY 2010

Dear colleagues and friends,

This is the 19th issue of the quarterly e-newsletter of the RRC – the Rhino Resource Center. Edited by Dr Kees Rookmaaker.

This quarter, there are 121 new references to literature about rhinos in Africa, in Asia and in captivity. There are now 6173 PDFs (full rhino text) of these papers on the website, which shows an increase of over four hundred in these three months.

In April 2010, Colin Groves, Prithiviraj Fernando and Jan Robowsky cooperated in the publication of a pivotal paper on the sixth rhinoceros. After reviewing a series of morphological, genetical and ecological data, they conclude that the taxon hitherto separated as the Northern white rhinoceros on subspecific level should actually be elevated to species status. Hence there are now six species of rhinoceros, the new one known scientifically as *Ceratotherium cottoni* (Lydekker, 1908). This paper clearly shows the importance of taxonomy for policy in conservation.

Personally I believe that it is now time to move away from calling the taxa southern and northern white rhino. Historically, they have also been called Burchell's and Cotton's rhinoceroses, from their respective 'discoverers'. These names may no longer be appropriate. I wonder if anybody can suggest good popular names for these two kinds of African rhinoceros? The **RRC Messageboard** will be a good place for any suggestions.

RHINO RESOURCE CENTER
FACILITATING COMMUNICATION ACROSS DISCIPLINES AND CONTINENTS



The work of the Rhino Resource Center
is supported by
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The move of four Northern White Rhinos from Dvur Kralove to Ol Pejeta in Kenya has been successful so far. Look at the papers by Barry White and Kes Hillman referred to below, or follow the news on the **website** of the project.

Among the papers listed below, I have taken the liberty to add some titles which are not on rhinos, but reflect my other interests. One is a book on the archives of Hugh Edwin **Strickland** in the University Museum of Zoology in Cambridge, which has details of his work on ornithology, zoological nomenclature, the Ray society and the Dodo. In the same museum, an egg collected by Charles Darwin on the Beagle has survived, which is documented in a small paper. There are now calls, published in International Zoo News, to establish a Center for Zoo Literature (CZL) very much on the same lines as the RRC. It is still in early stages, but advice is always welcome. Finally, a paper by the late Nico van Strien and myself on the impact of the eruption of Krakatoa on the rhino population in Ujung Kulon is now **available**.

It may be recalled that my book on *Encounters with the African Rhinoceros* is still available. This traces the history of the discoveries and changes in distribution of both the black and white rhinos in the southern third of Africa during most of the 19th century. It is well illustrated with contemporary artwork, which intended to show the differences between rhino species, many of which are no longer recognized.

The website of the RRC receives close to four hundred visitors every day, including a good percentage from the range states. We are happy to announce, therefore, that we have two new partners, Save the Rhino International in London, and Rhino Car Hire. We are looking forward to a long-term relationship with these partners. We continue to be grateful to our two Supporters, the International Rhino Foundation and SOS Rhino, whose contributions are the backbone of the RRC.



*The Rhino Resource Center is a charity.
We do not actively raise funds due to the nature of our work,
but need your assistance to provide our service to all rhino lovers worldwide.*

**Join us. Your support will be acknowledged
in our publications and on our website**

It is a great pleasure to thank the people who have alerted me to new literature or sent me reprints of their papers to be included in the lists of the RRC. Without such help, it would be easy to overlook important new material. This time, I would particularly like to thank Jan Robovsky for sending me files of papers in the languages of Eastern Europe, as well as my wife Sandy for volunteering time to scan papers for full text reproduction on the website of the RRC.

Contributors are always acknowledged.

Research is essential. Students and staff need information about past work, the best approach, the most significant questions to be answered in their particular expertise. They can spend months in a library gathering elusive papers and books, or simply log on the Rhino Resource Center for immediate results anywhere in the world.

Visit: www.rhinosourcecenter.com

MEETINGS

The annual Rhino Mayday in London has been cancelled for this year.

We can start planning for the 7th Rhino Keepers Workshop, to be held at Fossil Rim Wildlife Center, May 15-19, 2011. There is a **first call** for papers and presentations.

NEW LITERATURE (finalised 30 April 2010)

In the past quarter (February to April 2010), we have added 121 new references, to bring the total number of items in the database to 13,350. Of these, 43 percent are available as PDF (total 6173 !!), and many are searchable in the notes.

Below I have listed new entries published in the 21st century (and a few special older ones) in four categories: General, African rhinos, Asian rhinos and Fossil species. If you are interested in one of these titles, always check the RRC website first if it may be available there.

GENERAL AND HISTORICAL

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GENERAL – CONTINUED

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- Kisling, V., 2010. Letter to the Editor on the need for a center of zoo literature. *International Zoo News* 57 (1): 24.
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AFRICAN RHINOS

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- Duncan, A.E.; Lyashchenko, K.; Greenwald, R.; Miller, M.; Ball, R., 2009. Application of Elephant TB STAT-PAK assay and MAPIA (multi-antigen print immunoassay) for detection of tuberculosis and monitoring of treatment in black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*). *Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine* 40 (4): 781-785.
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- Hillman, K., 2010. Could Ol Pejeta be a new start for the world's rarest? *Swara*, Nairobi 34 (1): 50-53, figs. 1-4

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- Tomasova, K., 2005. Nosorozci - rhinoceroses. *Annual Report, Dvur Kralove Zoological Garden* 2005: 200-204.
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NOW AVAILABLE

Rookmaaker's book on *Encounters with the African Rhinoceros*
All sightings of rhinos in southern Africa 1790-1875 analysed and illustrated.
More information is found on our website.

The work of the Rhino Resource Center (RRC)
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ASIAN RHINOS

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Many thanks to all authors and publishers who have sent us recent publications on the rhinoceros. Your contribution is most welcome and appreciated.

FOSSIL RHINOS

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